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MARYVILLE, MISSOURI

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Virtual recruitment didn't stop in-person bid day



EMILY LLYOD I NW MISSOURIAN

New members of Tri Sigma begin running across the football field to meet their new sisters in the sorority at bid day on Sept. 21. Bid Day marks the last day of recruitment for sororities which was all virtual this year for COVID-19 precautions.

After a week of Zoom events, sororities finally met new members face-to-face

SIDNEY LOWRY Missourian Reporter I @TheMissourian

> fter standing in a line in the College Park Pavilion, girls who spent the past week going to multiple Zoom meetings to join a sorority were finally handed the small white envelope they have been working for all week.

In previous years these envelopes would be something they would have to hold onto as a way to build the suspense for what chapter they would be joining, but this year, they got to open the envelopes in a small group of two Panhellenic active members. The anticipation for this in-person event from the new members was built through an entirely virtual Recruitment Week.

"I am so excited for Bid Day," potential new member freshman Maddy Brickhouse said. "I'm so happy it's in person and I get to meet all the girls."

Not only are the potential new members excited, their Gamma Chis who have been with them throughout the unusual recruiting process every step of the way were as well.

"My hopes are that the potential new members in my group are excited when they open their bids," junior recruitment counselor Bailee Urban said. "I want everyone to find their forever home."

Starting at 5 p.m., potential new members met in the College Park Pavilion across from Bearcat Stadium and one by one picked up a small envelope that would tell them what chapter they were accepted into. Jsually after being handed these bids, recruits would have to wait until they were in a big

all the potential new members to open them and find out their new homes, but due to COVID-19 mitigation they opened them in a small group. Though they didn't get a traditional Bid Day, new members didn't lose their excitement for the event. 'It's been great. I love it," freshman Tessa Biodrowski. "I was so nervous when I got here, but when

I opened up my letter and I got the chapter I wanted, I was so happy."

While some members said they would have had the same experience no matter what, others were sad to see the traditional way of Bid Day change this year.

'It probably would've been more exciting if we were opening it in a big group of people, because if you were in the same chapter as someone, you could cheer together. I still think it was a good experience," sophomore Emma Bishop said.

SEE BID DAY | A4

★ ★ ★ ELECTION 2020 **ELECTION DAY FOR** SOME **VOTERS**

SAMANTHA COLLISON

During a normal year, the last week of September would be an eternity away from Election Day, but 2020 is not a normal year, and for many, Election Day is now.

Around 65 million Americans have requested or received absentee ballots, according to the New York Times, and this year is projected to set a record for absentee votes.

For college students, however, it's important to not put the cart before the horse. Many have never voted before, and October is the month of voter registration deadlines.

Missouri has the earliest deadline of nearby states, with online and in-person registrations needing to be in by 5 p.m. Oct. 7.

"You can register to vote in our office by filling out the application—bring your identification with you," Nodaway County Clerk Melinda Patton said in an email to the Missourian. "You can also go to the Missouri Secretary of State's website and register online. However at some point, you will still need to show your identification to our office or the election worker at the precinct you vote at.'

In Nebraska, the deadline for registering online or by mail is Oct. 16, but in-person registration continues until 5 p.m. Oct. 23. All registration must be submitted or postmarked by Oct. 13 in Kansas and Oct. 24 in Iowa.

The deadline for requesting an absentee or mail-in ballot in Missouri is 5 p.m. Oct. 21. In surrounding states, the ballot request deadlines coincide or shortly follow registration deadlines.

Ballots must be requested by Oct. 24 in Iowa, Oct. 23 in Nebraska and Oct. 27 in Kansas.

It would behoove first-time voters to register well in advance of the deadline in order to have enough time to request a ballot, receive it and return it

All ballots in all states must be received before polls close at 7 p.m. Nov. 3. In Missouri, only absentee ballots can be returned in person, and absentee ballots — unlike mailin ballots, which can be requested by anyone — require an excuse.

However, in Nebraska and Iowa, special drop boxes have been placed for mail-in ballots to be more expediently delivered. In Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas, ballots can also be returned directly to a local election office.

Active cases on decline throughout county

ANDREW WEGLEY Managing Editor I @andrewwegley

Two weeks ago, Nodaway County Health Department Administrator Tom Patterson wasn't yet sure what to make of the sudden drop in COVID-19 cases throughout the county. He had watched the seven-day rolling average of positive cases drop into single digits for the first time in weeks Sept. 9, and he wanted more time to assess the latest trends.

A week might be a good measuring stick, Patterson said then. Two weeks, he said, would be even better.

Now, 14 days after Patterson first commented on the downtick in COVID-19 cases, the trend has kept up for a full two weeks, as the county's active case count has dropped from 142 to 50 and as the seven-day rolling average has decreased to 6.14 as of Sept. 23 the latest available data at the time

"It sounds like we're having the same conversation," Patterson said in a phone call Sept. 23. "And that's a good thing." Case trends at both Northwest

and Maryville High School — the largest of eight secondary schools in Nodaway County — mirror the decline reported at the county level.

Northwest's active case count has hovered in the teens after peaking at 189 late last month. As of Sept. 23, 17 students and one staff member are isolated with the coronavirus, while more than 97% of

Northwest's 38 on-campus isola-

tion beds remain available. The lull in cases at Northwest represents a complete turnaround from where the University started the in-person semester. The University's Wellness Center tracked more than 1,000 visits to the oncampus clinic in the first three weeks of classes as active cases at Northwest jumped from 11 on Aug. 19, the first day of classes, to more than 170 two weeks later.

At the height of the COVID-19 spike among the campus community, close to 70% of the county's active cases involved Northwest staff or students.

SEE COVID-19 | A4



RACHEL ADAMSON I NW MISSOURIAN

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services and the National Guard held a drive-thru COVID-19 testing event Sept. 14 at the Maryville Community Center where two out of 205 tested were positive for COVID-19.



University sets all-time record

KENDRICK CALFEE

While other colleges nationwide have struggled this fall in areas like enrollment and retention amid a global pandemic, Northwest set its all-time enrollment record and came close to tying its retention record this fall 2020 semester.

The University announced the record in a press release Sept. 18, detailing its total headcount of 7,267 students this semester, which accounts for a 2.3% increase in enrollment. Among these stand-out statistics is another: this year, Northwest saw a 28% increase in graduate student enrollment, a total of 1,785 students in respective programs.

In the press release, Northwest President John Jasinski attributed institutional success to a variety of people and said the University leadership team is humbled by this year's numbers.

'Students, faculty, staff, alumni, partners, community members and all other Bearcats contribute," Jaskinski said. "We are thankful for Northwest's brand ambassadors who help carry our mission and story, and we are humbled by this record as we continue serving our communities and stakeholders.'

For other institutions across the nation, though, excelling in these categories has proven difficult. According to an NPR report in August, among other issues they face, admissions teams are having to decide whether to admit students who do not have ACT or SAT test scores, since those tests were cancelled for social distancing and other COV-ID-19 mitigation concerns.

This was a decision Northwest also considered. The University later removed some of the previous testing requirements for 2021 prospective students.

When institutions nationwide began closing their doors and moving to online instruction models late February and mid-March, col-



Despite a nationwide college enrollment shortage, Northwest stands out as one University seeing increased enrollment for the third year in a row.

lege applications for the fall 2020 semester saw a decline across all types of colleges and universities.

At this time, higher education institutions lost millions of dollars, and some financially-challenged schools closed indefinitely. Higher education, which employs approximately 3 million people nationwide, is now enveloped with circumstances of hybrid learning models and utilizing online learning.

In spite of a nationwide struggle to motivate students to invest in higher education during the pandemic, Northwest did so with seemingly no strife.

At the time when preliminary enrollment data was released by the University, Director of Institutional Research Egon Heidendal said Northwest's early response to the possibility of a coronavirus outbreak could be what is allowing for students to continue classes in person.

"The University was really just turning data into information," Heidendal said.

Following suit, Heidendal's team at Institutional Research built the Nodaway County COV-ID-19 Dashboard, after recognizing the health department was unable to produce a resource like it on their own.

Heidendal said, from a University perspective, the goal was to see what was happening over time in order to make better decisions for the University.

'We thought 'We're all in this together, so why not help out the community," Heidendal said.

With the University seeming to

reach that goal, Northwest did not neglect to tout other factors that make the institution stand out on a national scale during COVID-19 era uncertainty.

Countries represented at Northwest by 290 international students

According to the press release, Northwest was named by the career website Zippa as the best college in Missouri for getting a job. It also said a 2019-2020 satisfaction inventory shows Northwest students reported higher satisfaction rates

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in their college experience than national and regional peers.

Of the 7,267 students enrolled this fall, 1,182, or 12% of students fall within underrepresented groups or come from countries outside the U.S. Northwest has 290 international students enrolled who represent 39 countries.

Additionally, Northwest brings in students from 44 U.S. states, continuing to see high enrollment numbers among students from Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.

Jeremy Waldeier, Northwest's executive director of student recruiting, stressed the University's recurring message of student success in the press release.

"The dedication of our faculty and staff is the backbone of our campus and one reason we continue to see record enrollment," Waldeier said.



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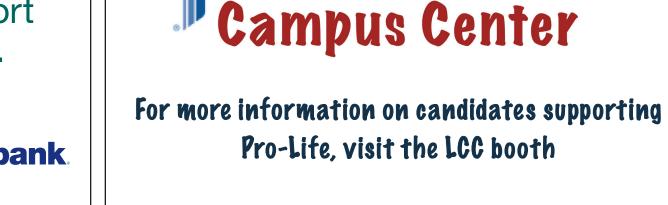
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Overseas faculty see support in writing

MADELINE MAPES
News Reporter I @MadelineDMapes

Northwest's international faculty have struggled in the past with immigration to become staff at the University. Now, the immigration process will be easier with the approval of the Immigration Sponsorship Policy.

The Immigration Sponsorship Policy is not completely new to the University. It is a process the University has used for several years, but is just now putting it "down on paper."

The policy is built to provide initial financial support for potential University hires from outside of the U.S. The financial support aids these potential hires with the beginning of the immigration process, but after that it is up to the individual being hired to immigrate.

Northwest Board of Regents member Mel Tjeerdsma said the

Immigration Sponsorship Policy does not provide the potential hire's family with support in immigrating to the U.S.

At the Sept. 3 Board of Regents meeting, the Immigration Sponsorship Policy was approved unanimously.

Director of Human Resources Krista Barcus said in a phone interview with The Missourian, that the process has been something the University has done in the past, but have never put the process on paper until now.

'We held some focus groups and said, 'You know what? What can we do to help them with that process of gaining immigration sponsorship?" Barcus said.

In November 2019, the University held focus groups with international faculty. These focus groups were to address the problems some international faculty were having with the immigra-

Barcus referenced these focus groups and said the creation of the Immigration Sponsorship Policy was something international faculty had been asking for.

"When new people come on, we can give them this, and it explains the steps and the process, and what Northwest offers and what's their responsibility," Barcus said.

Barcus explained the policy provides clear guidelines and responsibilities potential international faculty must follow in order to go through the immigration process. The policy also details what financial aid the University can provide at the beginning of the immigration process

The specific guidelines are unknown because as of Sept. 18, the University's policy has not been released for public record.

Barcus also said this is because she is trying to have the policy added to the faculty handbook. Once the Immigration Sponsorship Policy has been added to the handbook, faculty will be able to access the policy.

Even so, many other universities have similar policies for potential hires from other countries. Northern Illinois University and Northeastern University are both universities with examples similar to the Immigration Sponsorship Policy.

At Northwest, though, Barcus said the policy provides a small financial boost at the beginning of the process, and after that, the individual needs to manage all other responsibilities involved with the immigration process.

Tjeerdsma, former football coach of Northwest for 17 years, has been a Board of Regents member for a year now.

Tjeerdsma and Barcus both said the policy focuses on helping the University find and hire the best faculty it possibly can.

'The ultimate goal is to make it

possible for us to get the best qualified faculty and staff," Tjeerds-

He noted that there are some faculty positions that are hard to fill and that sometimes those positions

are filled by international faculty. By reaching out to potential hires outside of the U.S., the University is able to open up their hiring list and broaden their probability of choosing the best faculty members for the University.

Tjeerdsma said this policy helps clear up the already instilled policy that Northwest uses for hiring faculty from outside of the U.S. The policy acts as a clear pathway for individuals to follow.

Tieerdsma noted that the policy does not involve any other individuals other than the person being hired, which means it does not regard the moving process nor any family matters that may arise with the hire of these individuals.

Black voices uplifted at networking event for campus minorities

ABIGAIL STARR

News Reporter I @abbey_starr5

Black students and organizations gathered Sept. 18 to network, discuss the new resource center for minority students and create a safe space to share their experiences.

The Northwest Black Student Union hosted a dozen groups including the University's police department, student-owned businesses and student-led organizations. While wearing masks and social distancing, students had the opportunity to learn more about resources available at Northwest and how they can prepare for their future.

Senior Kari Frye is a member of the Black Student Union and organized the "Being Black at Northwest" evening of networking. She hoped the resources offered would provide a safe space to ask for help and lean on others who cope with the same challenges.

"The longer I've been at Northwest, the more tense it's gotten," Fyre said. "We have a goal for action because we haven't seen a lot."

With the news of a resource center for Black students, many attendees were eager to see what the space looks like what it includes and when it will be completed. Fyre said a section of the building paying tribute to Black excellence that came before them would be beneficial. Senior Brian Dunn II said the resource should be accessible

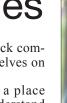
to people outside the Black community to educate themselves on other cultures.

"I think it should be a place for people who don't understand Black culture to come and learn and speak," Dunn said. "I've been here a long time, and I want to tell other students, we don't bite.'

Representatives from the Office of Student Affairs and Department of Equity were present to promote new methods of holding students and staff accountable for racially insensitive actions and to uplift black voices. The departments work together to make revisions to the code of conduct if necessary, collect feedback for training and create more awareness.

"Something that gets asked a lot is where to report an incident, and to that, we say just report it, and we will get it into the right hands, if that means bringing it to the attention of a different department or handing it over to the police," Vice President of Student Affairs Kori Hoffman said.

Dunn was there to promote his month-old business selling shea butter infused with essential oil. Junior Syeney Garner was selling her lip gloss line she started over quarantine. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. attended in preparation for recruitment. The sorority was founded by a group of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service with a pri-





Students speak with TRIO representative Tubias Johnson during the Being Black at Northwest event Sept. 18 at the Raymond J. Courter College Park Pavilion.

mary focus on the Black community. Minority Mens Organization and Spiritually Involved Sisters Together Achieving Harmony, also known as SISTAH, work together to provide events where male and female minority students can discuss challenges, help the community, and have fun.

One of the organizations in attendance was Active Minds, a student-led group with a focus on spreading awareness on mental health. Senior Cayla Vertreese is the founder and president with a passion for expanding campus awareness on mental illness and suicide. Active Minds held their first fundraiser over quarantine via Facebook to help put their plans into action.

"A lot of people need and want resources but don't even know where to find them, so that's where we come in," Vertreese said.

The group is hosting a movie

night at 6 p.m. Sept. 23 in the Performing Arts Center. Its "Green Bandana" campaign will kick-off at the event. Each student in attendance will be provided a green bandana and a stack of cards with various mental health resources listed. Other students can then approach students and ask for a card.

Northwest's Trio was also in attendance. Trio is a mentorship program run by students. The group provides support to first-generation college students, low socioeconomic status students, and students with disabilities. The peer mentors and academic coaches on the team tutor and assist with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, degree planning and career selection

"So many students qualify and they don't even know," Mentor Erriel Tota said. "There are people here to support you, reach out."

Career Services shared information about Mock Interview Day, Career Day and resources offered at speed networking day. The office also offers a Career Closet, a collection of donated professional attire for students who don't have access to their own. It's located in the North Complex on the second floor. Mock interview day and speed networking day showcase available jobs in Missouri.

As far as further measures go, the two departments are letting underrepresented students take the lead. After the launch of two trainings Sept. 17, the University said it's eager to hear feedback and adjust accordingly. Vice President of Culture Clarence Green agrees students should drive the change.

"Our goal is to assist with tra ma and build a robust reporting system and to eradicate bias in a respectful way," Green said. "The students should really drive what the resource center and everything else looks like."

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First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ Sundays: 8:30 a.m. online worship @ Facebook.com/ FCCMaryvilleMO 9 a.m. Discipleship Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship 201 West Third, Maryville 660.582.4101 Rev. Craig Kirby-Grove Campus contact: Deena Poynter 660.541.1336

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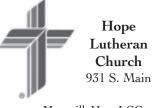
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CRIME LOG

for the week of Sept. 24

Northwest Missouri State University **Police Department**

Sept. 18

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Dieterich Hall.

Sept. 17

There was a closed investigation for harassment at Millikan Hall.

Sept. 16

There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at Perrin Hall.

There was a closed investigation for harassment at Hudson Hall.

Maryville Department of Public Safety

Sept. 20

A summons was issued to Max B. Hopkins, 19, of Fairfax, Missouri, for trespassing, disorderly conduct and minor in possession on the 700 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 19

A summons was issued to Kody M. Heflin, 26, for driving while intoxicated and disorderly conduct on the 600 block of South Dewey Street.

Sept. 18

There is an ongoing investigation for an animal complaint on the 400 block of West 16th Street.

Sept. 16

A summons was issued to Matthew D. Gruender, 20, of Tipton, Missouri, for disorderly conduct, minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. on the 100 block of South Main

Sept. 15

A summons was issued to Joni R. Voss, 46, for not having a valid driver's license and speeding at the intersection of U.S. Highway 71 and the U.S. Highway 71 Bypass.

Sept. 14

Ā summons was issued to James D. White, 40, of Bedford, Iowa, for wanted on warrant — failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market

Sept. 13

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of South Saunders Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of North Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 600 block of West Third Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1300 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 11

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1700 block of East First Street.

A summons was issued to Tracie R. Wagner, 46, of Barnard, Missouri, for wanted on warrant — failure to appear on the 400 block of North Market Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for trespassing on the 200 block of East Thompson Street

Sept. 10

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1000 block of North Mulberry Street.

A summons was issued to Madison L. Jones. 21, and Clarissa G. Barnes, 21, for driving while intoxicated and an equipment violation on the 500 block of North Main Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for lost or stolen property on the 1100 block of North College Drive.

Sept. 7

A summons was issued to Mishell Reyes Cervantes, 22, for not having a valid driver's license, failure to maintain financial responsibility and an equipment violation on the 1200 block of North Main Street.

Sept. 6

A summons was issued to Keyton K. Pettlon, 20, for driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, careless and imprudent driving and possession of a fake I.D. on the 100 block of South Munn

BID DAY CONTINUED FROM A1

Freshman Jenna Weidner felt the same about the changes made from previous years.

"I'm excited and I'm ready to be in a sorority. I feel like my experience has been good despite COV-ID regulations," Weidner said. "I think it would have been more fun if we got to be in a big group, but I still liked it."

After opening their bids, new members ran to Bearcat Stadium to meet active members of their new chapter, who this year sat in the stands instead of embracing one another in a large crowd.

In order to comply with CDC regulations, the Greek Life staff decided to only let a few active members on the track with new members who were just accepted into their chapter.

Though they got to meet some active members in person, some new members wish they would have gotten to meet more people in their new home.

"I am relieved to be seeing people in person today instead of on Zoom. I wish it was without masks and even more personal with the active members of the sororities, but



New members of Alpha Sigma Alpha begin running across the football field to meet their new sisters in the sorority at Bid Day Sept. 21.

I am so glad it is in person," freshman Elise Green said. "I think the excitement would have been on a whole other level if we were all together when opening bids, but I am still super happy with how today has gone.'

After Bid Day, each chapter will be holding socially distanced chapter meetings as well as meeting new members as a large virtual group on Zoom. Going forward, members said they hope to have as many events in person as they can with their new members while still abiding by campus and CDC guidelines.

COVID-19

CONTINUED FROM A1

That number has almost cut in half, down to 36% Sept. 23, as the gross number of active cases has shrunk to a fraction of what it once was.

"From our lens, I would say that our mitigation measure had a lot to do with it," Northwest Communication Manager Mark Hornickel said in a phone call last week. "People are wearing their face coverings. As you look around campus, we're seeing people follow the mitigation measures.'

At Maryville High School, where an early spike in quarantines forced the Maryville R-II School District to shift to a hybrid learning model two weeks ago, cases and quarantines have each seen a significant decline

As of Sept. 23, the district had 17 total students in quarantine, with nine of those students set to return to class by Sept. 28, Maryville Superintendent Becky Albrecht said. Throughout the semester, 13 students have tested positive for CO-

VID-19 and 185 students have been placed in quarantine. There are zero active cases among district students.

'It's hard to establish the kind of causal relationship, but we do know that since we have had the hybrid schedule at the high school, we've had to do no quarantine contact tracing during school hours," Albrecht said in a phone call Sept. 23. "We have had some students that have been positive, but that hasn't resulted in us notifying County Health with close contacts.

The district hasn't implemented a hybrid model at the middle or elementary school level, where Albrecht said teaching remote students presents a harder set of challenges for both students and teachers.

Instead, the district has leaned toward a "cohort" mode atl Eugene Field Elementary School in an attempt to reduce the number of close contacts students might have. The elementary and middle schools have accounted for 104 of the district's 185 total quarantines. All 17 of the district's current quarantines come from the two schools.

'Their numbers have dropped,'

Albrecht said, "but they haven't been completely eradicated like they have at the high school.'

Despite the hybrid model's success in limiting the number of Maryville High School students in quarantine, Albrecht said the district hopes to return to a five-daya-week in-person learning setting after the end of the school's first quarter Oct. 16. Albrecht said the traditional model remains the district's preference, though she said the feasibility of returning to completely in-person instruction is depending on the slowdown in cases continuing.

Still, as other area school districts, including in Savannah and St. Joseph, struggle with mounting quarantines and case totals, Maryville appears to have contained the spread of COVID-19 among students — at least for now.

"It seems to be working for us right now, but we were having more trouble in the beginning than some of these schools," Albrecht said. 'So I think when it hits you is problematic. Right now, we're enjoying the little lull, but who knows what next week will bring?'

Occupy Valk promotes civic responsibility

WESLEY MILLER News Reporter I @Wesleymiller360

Voting hasn't always been a right for everyone in America. Years of strife in the women's suffrage movement attests to that. On Sept. 17, Northwest Instructor Matt Johnson began his speech in the latest installment of the University's "Occupy Valk" series by promoting political engagement for everyone.

Johnson said the combination of what was happening in the country, with the fact that this is an election year, made it seem like the perfect time to say something.

Johnson began the presentation by saying, "I have a passion for the Constitution." This fact became evident quickly, as the first slide was about the beginnings of the Constitution. From then on, history and how the nation got to where it is today was the main focus of the Sept. 17 session of Occupy Valk, titled "Fight for Your Right to VOTE."

Throughout his presentation, Johnson focused on the past struggles Americans had to face to gain the rights to vote they have today. Johnson highlighted key parts of American history that led to everyone having the same voting rights such as the Women's Suffrage Movement, the Civil Rights Movement and passing Amendments 15 and 19.

To highlight the nuances of the system in which we operate, Johnson posed the question "Are we a republic or a democracy?" He briefly explained that a republic is a government where elected officials govern the people, and that a democracy is where the people govern themselves.

In America, he said, we are a democratic-republic, a system in which the people still govern themselves, but elect officials to create the laws.

The focus of the presentation then turned to the right to vote for Black people.

Johnson explained the 15th Amendment passed with the principle that a person shall not be denied the right to vote based on race. However, soon after, the Jim Crow laws took into effect to stall the reconstruction of the Union after the Civil War, and to still make it difficult for Black people to vote.

Johnson then talked about the Civil Rights Movement and how it was not only seen nationally, but seen internationally. He discussed how the movement put pressure on the U.S. government to make a change, making way for the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which removed the obstacles Black people had to face to be able to vote.

The presentation then focused on the Women's Suffrage Movement and the actions women took to make a change. Eventually, the U.S. government acknowledged women as equals. The 19th Amendment had passed.

Johnson talked about these things to show how the United States improved through time, and to show always that, "the way we are supposed to be, is just over the horizon.

Johnson also discussed the 2000



MADI GLASS I NW MISSOURIAN

Matt Johnson explains laws and regulations put in place for equal and fair voting for every citizen Sept. 17. Johnson's presentation included the Jim Crow laws and how women were given the right to vote.

election, and how it pointed out the multitude of flaws in the election process, and that later in 2002, Congress helped fix those problems.

Soon after, Johnson told his favorite story of the night. He was inspired by a man named Gregory Watson, who as an undergraduate for the University of Texas, unearthed the "Ghost Amendments," and found an unratified amendment.

Watson decided to try to get this amendment ratified, which ended up being the 27th amendment, making it impossible for politicians to vote themselves a raise. Johnson told this story of Watson to prove that one person can make a difference, because Watson was one person, vidson said. by himself, with motivation for

To end his presentation, John-

son gave important dates on registering to vote in Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa.

Dane Stiles, a student who attended the previous Valk session, said he enjoyed the message.

Lauren Earnest agreed, and said the message seemed well received by those who went. 'Johnson made it seem more

like a persuasive speech, and trying to get people to vote," Earnest said.

Stiles, Earnest, and another Northwest student, Jessica Davidson are involved in the History Department. Though this session didn't really bring any new information to them, Da-

"I could tell there people who weren't around this kind of information before," Davidson said.

After the presentation, Johnson said his main focus was to educate, and show people how we got to where we are. He said he hoped to make people feel not so jaded towards the system.

Johnson said he believes Watson's story is the most important thing for him.

"Helps make people feel like they have a responsibility to right wrongs," Johnson said. Additionally, Johnson's words to people who don't vote is, "Don't com-

The next Occupy Valk session will be Sept. 24th, titled "Show Me the Money (or not): The New Slave System of College Sports," at 7 p.m. in Room 118 of the Valk Center.

Focus on personal wellness in this crazy time

Columnist L@BoomerZane

I know I've been preaching mask wearing and social distancing for weeks now, in order to protect those around you. I hope that the well-being of those around you is constantly on your mind. However, in all this constant worrying about others, don't forget to focus on yourself. Don't neglect your health during this crazy time.

By nature, I have always been a workaholic. Whether in the classroom, lying in bed or home for the weekend, my mind is constantly racing. Every waking minute of mine is spent in productivity mode. One moment, I'm planning out the week down to the hour. Five minutes later, I'll end up remembering something important that I need to check off my list and quickly shift focus.

There have even been times where I'll be staring at the ceiling trying to fall asleep when a story idea comes to me out of the blue. As active as my mind is, it sure isn't sharp for long. It's gotten so bad that I've officially hit the age where I'll walk into a room, wonder why the heck I'm in there, sit back down and repeat the process again. Here's what you can do to help yourself out.

Make sure you get ample sleep every night. That includes going to bed at a reasonable time. Most people my age love to be up until midnight or later and sleep the day away in turn. Let me tell you, going to bed at 9 p.m. has its advantages. Falling asleep before everyone else— and staying asleep longer — will leave you much more refreshed come daybreak. You might not always succeed in keeping a 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. sleep schedule, but when you manage to pull it off, it makes even the hardest

day easier to bear. Eating right is another good habit to maintain. I'm not saying you can't treat yourself and pig out on chocolate every once in a while. but try substituting those burgers and fries for sandwiches and salads. All that green is as healthful as it looks — and no, it won't kill you to eat it. By the way, amateur tip — I'm no dietitian: Don't forget to eat, either. There have been so many times where I've been working away and manage to look up at the clock. Then that moment of realization sets in with "Oh, crap. I should probably eat something." Please tell me I'm not the only one this happens to.

Perhaps I should have put this point first — it's definitely most important. Please remember that it's okay to not be okay. It's inevitable: you're going to have down days, ones where you won't want to leave bed and go to class. Lord knows I've had plenty of those.

Whatever you might be feeling mentally, I want you to know that there is help and there is hope. If you need, go schedule a counseling session over at Wellness Services. Take the day off if you're feeling overwhelmed. Give yourself grace. Practice meditation. Keep a gratitude journal. All I'm asking is that you do something to practice self-care.

So remember this: Take good care of yourself. Don't feel guilty about it. If someone has a problem with it, that's their issue and not yours. You're worth it too. Don't let that slip past you.



OUR VIEW:

Vote in 2020; there's no excuse

Racial injustice, natural disasters worsened by climate change, growing income inequality and a pandemic. That's a highlight of the terrible things happening in the U.S. in 2020, a comprehensive list would be seemingly endless.

Nov. 3, however, provides a bright spot, an opportunity for Americans to attempt to make a change. Election Day won't fix 2020, but it can ensure that future years will be better than this colossal screw up of

It's sad that in America people have to be reminded to vote. A fundamental right that is the bedrock of democracy has to be pushed on the general public the same way as a deal at McDonald's. Americans, especially young people, should be eager to vote. The possibility of impacting yours and other lives for the better is something that should excite us.

In 2016, 61.4% of eligible voters cast ballots in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau. That's a respectable completion percentage for a high school quarterback, but not for democratic participation.

It gets even worse when young people are singled out. The voting rate for 18- to 29-year-olds doesn't even eclipse the 50% mark; it's 46.1%. Older people are outpacing them by a long shot with 70.9% turnout in 2016. That's the turnout in presidential election years. It tends to be much lower during midterms even though they are often

Young people are allowing those who haven't been in their shoes for decades make decisions that will impact them much more than older generations who choose for them. Climate change, social security and education funding are all major issues that older generations won't feel the repercussions of their choices. Apathy is most disastrous for young voters.

The 2020 election is often simplified to the choice between former Vice President Joseph R. Biden and President Donald Trump, but it's so much more than that. Everyone in the House of Representatives is up for reelection and there are 35 U.S. Senate seats up for grabs. All of these races have one thing in common: they are sexier than state and local elections. These races will grab more headlines, be brought up in more conversations and therefore garner more attention.

YOUR VIEW:

Will you be voting in November? Why or why not?

DALTON APEL Freshman Biochemistry



"I will be voting in November. I am a citizen of the United States. It is a right of mine to be able to make that kind of decision, and I want to exercise that."

ERIN FRANKLIN Human Services

voice, vote in person.

look into who you vote for.

brighter. Take it and vote.



eryone is unhappy, then something needs to change.

"Yes, I will be voting in November. I think it's important that everyone's voice matters and that everyone gets a chance. You might feel like your vote doesn't matter or count, but I feel like everyone should have the chance to have a say in the government and

who's going to be in charge."

KAYLA LINCOLN Agricultural Education

The fact is that state and local elections have more immediate effect

on people's lives than national elections. How schools are funded, how

the coronavirus is handled, what roads are repaired, where the sales tax-

es go and who the chief law officer of the county is — the Nodaway

County Sheriff is up for reelection — these are all issues that are han-

dled by state and local governments and are greatly impacted by vot-

er participation. Sure there aren't million-dollar TV ads that interrupt

Chiefs games, debates hosted on national TV or near as many gaudy

merchandise covered in tacky slogans, but those races are just as im-

For these state and local elections, college students, register

where you spend most of your time and money, which is probably

meaning that you won't be affected near as much by local politics

don't have to drive home in the middle of the week to vote. It's be-

enough to destroy the Postal Service, so if you want to ensure your

And for the love of all that is good know what is going on. Look at

come clear that Trump thinks the 0.0025% voter fraud rate is big

candidates and evaluate what they plan to do if elected or reelected.

Voting takes work and if you aren't willing to put in some effort may-

be stay home instead. It takes more than the viewing of one attack ad or

one yard sign to make an informed decision on who to vote for. Politics

The reelection rate of Congress hovers between 80% and 90% de-

can be complicated, and it's easy to fall down a rabbit-hole, but please

pending on the year, according to Open Secrets. However, the approv-

al rating for Congress was 21% in August 2020, according to a Gallup

you want to elect and see how they plan to or have voted, because if ev-

In a year where everything seems to be bleak, the November elec-

tion provides Americans with an opportunity to make the future a little

poll. Spoiler alert: someone has to be the problem. So, look into who

there as you will be here. It's also more convenient because you

Maryville. You may not ever live in your hometown full-time again,

portant if not more so than national elections.



"I will be voting in November because I think it's important that all voices are heard not just, you know, the loud ones."

THE STROLLER:

Your Bearcat loves your pro sports boycotts

I love hearing about boycotts of professional sports. Nothing brings me more joy than seeing people really sticking it to the man in the comment sections of pro football and basketball teams.

The pure elation that comes from seeing a score update from the Kansas City Chiefs followed by a comment that says "I can no longer support the Chiefs. KEEP POLITICS OUT OF SPORTS!" is unmatched. You go dude. You're really doing it.

The National Football League is

trembling in its boots because angry, middle-aged, white guy No. 65 has told them he is no longer watching football. It's time for a change, and this guy is determined to be the one to do it. Who cares if they bring in billions of dollars a year? This one guy isn't gonna watch their games on the cable channel that he already pays for and will no longer wear the merchandise that he already purchased.

The best part is that it's the laziest form of protest possible. I'm tired of having to march in

the streets, call my local government officials and organize sit-ins. It's so much simpler to make a bland comment under a social media post, and it's an easy way to get engagements. And so what if he doesn't completely stick to it? Boycotting your favorite football or basketball team doesn't mean you can't constantly check social media for updates and continue to follow the team.

And sure, it's OK if you actually end up watching games later on in the season, you know,

just in case the team's actually really good. It's the original message about keeping politics out of sports — unless it's politics you agree with, of course — and you did a great job. So, please keep us updated on your super meaningful boycott every week. I'm sure it won't be a bad look in the future.

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MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ I AP PHOTO

Gabe Huck a member of a San Benito Monterey Cal Fire crew, stands along state Highway 168 while fighting the Creek Fire Sept. 6 in Shaver Lake, California.

Wildfires touch lives beyond

West Coast

RACHEL ADAMSON

Editor-in-Chief I @rachadamsonn

t had been at least a month since Heather Simon last saw the sun. After a long string of bad air days, ash and smoke-filled skies, on Sept. 15 from her home in Valley Springs, California, she had a bit of relief.

Wildfires old and new have burned through over 3.6 million of California's 101 million acres. The fires have pummeled over 7,196 structures and taken the lives of 26 people in a series of 7,982 wildfires, according to Cal Fire. Valley Springs, California, had a few scares but never an active fire. Much like the rest of the state, Simon's town was enveloped in looming smoke from surrounding wildfires. But last Tuesday, the smoke lifted and gave way to blue skies.

As the fires blazed on in Caliornia they burned their way into with three other girls for the upcoming school year.

Before Boyd left Valley Springs, the fire department had a controlled burn less than 5 miles from Simon's house. The wind picked up and the controlled burn wasn't controlled anymore. The fire's orange glow was visible from the family's house, and Boyd decided it was time to leave before it was too late. She didn't want to risk driving through a wildfire or getting stuck in California.

"It's like night and day from where she is in Missouri to California," Simon said about the two realities of Boyd's life.

Back in California, there were weeks that were worse than Simon imagined were possible. On the worst days, the smoke was so thick Simon couldn't see the red barn that sits on the top of a hill near the edge of her acre-and-ahalf of property.

Simon has sold real estate for Coldwell Banker Real Estate for two years now. Her office is in Elk Grove, California, where she used to live before gradually moving 56 minutes away to Valley Springs four years ago after a divorce with Boyd's dad.

Some days, there was ash remnants of trees, houses, livestock, belongings — from surrounding wildfires piling on Simon's car before leaving for work in the morning and then again when returning to her car to go home. Sometimes she would get ash on her shirt when walking into

You have to worry about 'Are you going to be the next one?' because we live in a fire zone and we've had big fires up here before," Simon said.

In the midst of California's climate crisis, it has another crisis: skyrocketing insurance rates for houses in fire-prone zones. Simon's fire insurance more than doubled this year but she was able to get the rate back down. Others in her town haven't been as lucky, being pushed out by high insurance rates, Simon said.

Yet, Simon said the housing market in California is "on fire." She hasn't seen this kind of activity in the market before.

California is enduring one of its worst wildfire seasons ever. According to the New York Times live wildfire updates, five out of the 10 largest fires since 1932 scorched California this year.

An average wildfire season in California burns 3 million acres. California has already surpassed that, and the flames are still spreading. The August Complex Fire alone has burned through 846,989 acres and has been deemed the largest fire in the state's history. August Complex Fire started Aug. 16 after a series of lightning strikes. The fire is 43% contained with 2,180 total fire personnel from 47 different crews assigned to combat the fire.

While California is trying to extinguish blazing wildfires, it's also trying to contain the surge of CO-VID-19 cases that started spiking in the summer months.

million of Calitornia's 10⁻ million acres have burned from wildfires so far.

On March 20, California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered a statewide lockdown after 19 people died from the coronavirus and more than 900 had tested positive. Meanwhile on March 20, the coronavirus had yet to reach Nodaway County and wouldn't for 13 more days.

California became the first state to go on lockdown, and it hasn't left lockdown since. Simon said all they had was the outdoors. Indoor gyms, sit-down restaurants, bars and other social gathering spaces were still closed for COVID-19 precautions. But, even going outside wasn't an option for a while. The smoke and air quality made it unbearable.

'There's a whole lot of different layers to having these fires that are a lot bigger than what people actually realize," Simon said. "Everybody deals with it differently. We're just trying to push through.'

Simon hopes the blue skies and sunshine last in California. It's the best weather she's seen in over a month. The outdoors are what got her and the rest of California through a seven-month lockdown. Boyd says she's surprised her mom hasn't had to evacuate yet like some of her extended family has. But Simon is hopeful she won't have to leave her home.

Hopefully we're almost through fire season. We started early this year," Simon said. "We just have to wait and see."



MARYVILLE CONTINUED FROM A10

In the past 12 games against the Dragons, the Spoofhounds have found themselves in the win column every time. Weiss remembers how the 'Hounds played the Dragons in the past, and he wants to

keep that same approach. "Our mental approach to the game has stayed the same in the past and needs to remain the same this week," Weiss said. "We just need to remember what Maryville football is about and be able to produce.'

Last year, Maryville's offense was able to produce five touchdowns rushing from a variety of running backs. This year, with the offensive running back trio of

Weiss, senior Trey Houchin and sophomore Caden Stocklein, the Spoofhounds have an opportunity to replicate that performance, but it all starts up front.

"We need to win the line of scrimmage better. We need to play better up front and open holes for our backs," Webb said. "We have to be able to run the football.'

In road games this season, the Spoofhounds have allowed a combined 77 points, which is 30 more than they've allowed at home.

The troubles could continue this week, as Cameron is led by senior quarterback Tyler Campbell. Campbell is a dual-threat quarterback who can make plays on his feet but also has the ability to throw the ball.

Weiss, who also plays safe-

ty, knows the defense will have to step up their overall performance if they want to keep Campbell and the Dragons' offense in check.

"Everybody on all surfaces needs to be able to do their job consistently," Weiss said. "We need to improve from last week tremendously. We need to play with some more heart."

Like St. Pius, Cameron comes into this matchup with some momentum. The 3-1 start is the best start to a season for the Dragons since 2013 when they finished at 8-4. They've also picked up their first MEC win and snapped a 14year losing streak to Chillicothe

The Dragons and Spoofhounds have faced similar opponents so far this season. Cameron found it-

NORTHWEST CONTINUED FROM A10

With trying to keep the studentathletes' safety in mind, Peterson said that's just the beginning of logistics that would have to be worked out for competition to happen this fall.

"Another piece of it is the revenue side," Peterson said. "If you have games in Bearcat Stadium, that's great, but are you going to allow fans in? If you allow fans in, is it gonna be parents? Are you going to charge parents? Are you gonna charge 'em four times what they usually pay?'

"It's ongoing and never-ending. It doesn't cost nothing to put on a football game. We've gotta pay officials, scorekeepers, game clock, you've gotta do all of this other stuff. ... This is where you just get

self losing to St. Pius X 42-22 Sept. 11 but rebounded with a 48-21 win against Chillicothe. Maryville has had the same experiences with those wins and losses.

We need to start off early and knock their confidence down," Weiss said. "After doing that, we need to keep applying pressure."

Aside from picking up a road win, this game has bigger implications for the Spoofhounds. Maryville is currently 1-1 in the MEC and no longer have full control of their own destiny. Maryville has to continue winning, while hoping for a St. Pius loss.

'It sucks, but we just need to keep playing as hard as we can week-in and week-out," Weiss said. "We have to do the best we can and play Maryville football."

lost in stuff."

Peterson is trying to figure out whether conducting any form of competition this fall would be a detriment winter and spring sports. Winter and spring sports have been impacted twice already due to CO-VID-19 with the cancellation of 2019-2020 championships, as well as having their schedules modified for 2020-21.

A third modification, Peterson said, is something that he's heavily taking into consideration throughout the process. It's something that he doesn't want to emotionally tax those athletes with, he said.

'In the grand scheme of things, it's gonna cost a whole lot more in number of tests and dollars to test the football program five, six, seven, eight or nine times, than what it would cost us to get all through the spring and all of the sports that are playing that still have champion-

A win also becomes crucial against Cameron as Maryville is unsure of what's to come in it's Week 6 matchup. What was originally supposed to be a home game against the Benton Cardinals is now being classified as a bye week.

According to Maryville Athletic Director Mat Beu, Benton had to cancel its next two games due to quarantined players and staff. Maryville is currently seeking a replacement opponent for the Oct. 2 game.

With a lot of uncertainty for upcoming weeks and another tough opponent on the road, Webb isn't focused on the outside noise.

"Our focus this week is to go win at Cameron," Webb said. "Every week, all you can focus on is your next game."

ship opportunities," Peterson said. "It's tough."

Whether Northwest football will put the pads on this fall is uncertain, or any fall sport for that matter. And the MIAA CEO Council is set to make a decision about winter sports by an Oct. 1 deadline.

For now, Peterson is left piecing together considerations to deem what's best for student-athletes at Northwest.

"It's an ongoing battle to try and figure out what's best for our football program, or soccer program, or volleyball program, or cross country program, all of our winter and spring sports, our department, the University, campus, Maryville community, Nodaway county, northwest Missouri, fans, no fans, revenue, expenses, testing supplies," Peterson said. "It's hard, man. It's hard.'



ADDALYNN BRADBURY I NW MISSOURIAN

The Maryville cross country team will travel down to Kansas City, Missouri to compete in the SPX Invite Sept. 26.

Hounds find stride at

Senior Bearcat continues work amid uncertainty

Senior Keely Danielsen continues to run at practice despite not having a cross country season this fall. Danielsen developed a passion for cross country in

high school from her coach who inspired her to run in college.

TANNER SMITH Sports Reporter I @t_smit02

Keely Danielsen, a senior cross country and track and field athlete, looks to challenge herself with what lies ahead in sports and life

Danielsen is a native of Kansas City, Missouri, who has run for Northwest all three years she's been on campus. While her fall season of cross country was canceled, she has looked forward to the opportunity to get back to practices with her teammates.

"I've had to quarantine a few times since coming back to Northwest this fall," Danielsen said. "My roommates had COVID, so I had to quarantine, but it looks like now I will be able to get back with my team."

Danielsen has come to find a love for life while running cross country. She found her passion for it back in high school when her coach became her role model for cross country.

'My high school coach was a true inspiration to me to pursue running in college," Danielsen said. "I learned a lot from her and the lifestyle she had is what I want in life."

Teammates along the way have helped Danielsen learn who she is as a person. Being in the college atmosphere, she has been able to meet and grow with friends that are going to last her a lifetime.

The girls on the cross country team have been together for quite sometime now, and they have a bond. A lot of them have become

roommates and best friends. 'These girls I have met and grown with are my best friends,

roommates and they are going to be bridesmaids at my wedding,' Danielsen said.

MADI GLASS I NW MISSOURIAN

"Keely brings so much energy to every environment she is in," Shayleigh James said, a senior cross country runner. "She has helped to change me into a better person and friend as well as competitor when it comes to running.'

Danielsen has had to find a different way of coping with the cancellation of her fall season. For her, it has been a heartbreaking loss to her senior year because she has found a lot of passion in what she does. Cross country has helped her learn a lot about mental toughness and now that is being taken away from her until the spring season of track and field.

There is still uncertainty of a spring season, and Danielsen said that it is worse not knowing what is going to happen rather than knowing the season is going to be canceled. All that Danielsen and her teammates are able to do now is train for whatever lies ahead.

"I feel I have lost some sense of purpose in life without the fall season," Danielsen said.

Without knowing what is going to be happening in the spring, Danielsen will continue to work on her mental toughness and look for ways to find purpose without the sport she loves.

"Being a cross country athlete, you have to have mental strength, and I think that not having a season is just going to build more strength," Danielsen said. "For now, I am just going to apply what I have learned from this sport to life and wish for the best in the spring."

Heartland Classic meet CORBIN SMITH Sports Reporter I @curly_corbs

On Sept. 19, Maryville cross country made another hour-plus expedition. This time, to Pel-

la, Iowa, to compete in the Heartland Classic. Despite being their first time at

this venue, coach Rodney Bade was pleased with his decision to enter his top four boys in the competition. "We kind of needed this meet,"

Bade said. "Mentally, we needed to go somewhere and run fast. We were trying to find somewhere where we would have a shot at that.'

The Spoofhounds were able to run well, as two of the four athletes set new personal records.

Senior Garrett Dumke finished with the third fastest time in the 5,000-meter red race, coming across the line in a personal best time of 16 minutes, 38 seconds and 1 millisecond. Junior Jag Galapin was the second spoofhound to cross with a time of 17:40. Closely behind was junior Cale Sterling, finishing the race in 17:47.7. To close out Maryville's traveling squad, senior Jake Walker inched closer to his season's goal of breaking the 20-minute barrier with a new PR of 20:22.7.

Among the anxiety that surrounded Bade predating this meet, the Heartland Classic gave Bade a vote of confidence in the season.

"I feel like our fitness was in the right place and progressing as it should," Bade said. "You kind of need meets like this every once in a while where you can see what shape you're in. As a coach, you kind of need this as well, because you start second guessing yourself."

For Bade, he said this verifies

that he is doing the right thing, coaching-wise, and hopes that his athletes will run faster as the season progresses. However, the more races closer to Maryville, the less likely he believes his athletes can perform at a high level.

The nature of our courses up in this part of the state is fairly hilly and not very fast," Bade said. "They have thick grass, soft ground — they're just slow. They're sluggish and slow."

Bade said the times he sees from schools in other parts of Missouri at this point in the season are much faster than what his athletes can run with the courses they're given. Part of the reason Bade was so happy about having his athletes run well in Pella was because he doesn't expect fast times in the next couple of weeks.

Despite the course craze, Bade is worried about more of the mental challenges that he'll have to face with his athletes.

'My challenge this year will be to get them to still go for good times," Bade said. "It's going to be a hard course, but you can still run fast. I tell them, 'The top kids always run fast on courses, no matter what the course is.' My challenge is, now that we've done kind of the same meets for a couple years, is to not set those limitations on themselves for the next couple weeks."

One runner that seems to push past the limitations of hard courses is Dumke. Going into this course blind to its twists and turns, Dumke still managed to run faster than he ever has.

"Being able to run a PR on the course, I was pretty happy with my performance," Dumke said. "At the beginning, there were about five or six of us that started push**UP NEXT**

MHS @ SPX Invitational Sept. 26 Kansas City, Missouri

ing the race from the front, so we all stuck together and pushed each other through the first couple of miles and then at the end, we all

brought it in." Dumke said the wooded areas and hard dirt made the course easier to maneuver than some courses in Missouri. After running in a divided Raymore-Peculiar meet, Dumke enjoyed having tighter competition in Pella.

"There was a lot more competition in this Pella meet," Dumke said. "I'm definitely happy that I got to run in the group I did run in. Everyone on the team had a pack to run with and push ourselves, so it was the perfect race for us.'

The combination of a good pack and good weather carried the 'Hounds through their third outing of the season. Both Dumke and Bade are hoping to keep this momentum going as they don't see a premature conclusion to the season.

"As of right now, I don't see the season getting canceled," Dumke said. "At school we go half the days now, and everybody is spaced out to prevent anybody from being sent home to quarantine. I feel like right now, we're in the worst-case scenario, and we'll be able to push through and still have championships.

Bade and his 'Hounds will travel down to Kansas City, Missouri, to compete in the SPX Invite Sept. 26. In the week leading to the meet, Bade plans on making sure the team is rested and ready to run.

Rugby becomes affiliate with NW

JON WALKER
Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker

It isn't much more than a patch of grass with faded lines bordering it. It's never really been anything more than a soccer fie

thing more than a soccer field in the southwest corner of Donaldson West-side Park.

Now, it's the home of Northwest rugby practices.

After a journey that's been 14 years in the making, rugby is a club sport affiliated with Northwest.

"The guys, they just wanted to be like, we just wanted be like a Northwest team and play collegiate rugby and win championships," Northwest junior and team president Koffi Lewis said. "You know, the college athlete life."

Despite not being affiliated with the University, rugby has been a part of the Maryville community since 2006. Lewis said that the years prior to his arrival in the program were filled with hot-and-cold stretches of people keeping the club going.

Since 2013, athletes not a part of the streaky stretches were a part of the Nodaway County men's rugby team.

"They do a lot of things to help us," team captain Frederic Goudge, who is taking a year off from Northwest, said about the Nodaway team. "Now, we wanna be like, kinda our own team — our own little independent thing."

And for the 2020-21 school year, Lewis and Goudge led the charge to make that possible. Lewis, who has been the main person in charge of communication with the University, said one of the biggest struggles of becoming affiliated is try-



GRACE ELROD I NW MISSOURIAN

After becoming affiliated with the University earlier this fall, Northwest rugby practices twice a week at Donaldson Westside Park in hopes of being able to schedule competition. The program is struggling to schedule due to COVID-19.

ing to figure out the intricacies of what the program can and can't do.

One of the biggest advantages is having an approved budget for expenses.

Despite now having the resources that it needs, Lewis said the program is struggling in the one area that most other sports are at the moment.

"Trying to set up games, it's kind of — especially with COV-ID and all that type of stuff going on — makes protocol and mitigation stuff a lot more challenging," Lewis said. "We've just been corresponding with different schools

through social media and stuff like that, texting, calling. It's been going as well as you can expect, I would say, given the circumstances of everything that's going on currently."

Lewis and Goudge said the program is embracing those challenges with the hopes of being able to compete in a fashion that would resemble normalcy for the sport.

"We're trying to get in an actual rugby league where we'll compete for a championship with other college rugby programs, which would be really awesome and important," Goudge said.

The program's rise in popularity and participation, Lewis said, was mostly due to heavy recruiting efforts at the Organization Fair on campus. It's something that Lewis and Goudge knew they'd have to do in order to keep the program from falling into another string of skittish participation numbers.

Lewis said it's something that has led to new opportunities and a more enjoyable time in the program.

"My first year here, there were just a few number of guys," Lewis said. "Even now, just seeing a whole bunch of new people, and even girls starting to join the team, it's just been super cool seeing our number continue to grow and stuff like that."

"We have clout now," Goudge said. "It's sick."

The heavy dose of recruitment led to Northwest freshman Chauntia Dube joining the program. Dube is a part of a group that is planning on starting the process to have a women's team. For now, Dube and the rest of the women are playing and practicing with the men.

"When I came here, I saw the rugby team at the org fair and they were very welcoming," Dube said. "My first practice here went pretty well; they were just very welcoming. But yeah, the team always makes an effort to make everyone feel welcomed and actually learn the sport instead of just throwing you behind."

Dube said that she never quite had the intention of joining a rugby team, but noted that she had always played soccer and always wanted to try playing football — she felt a mixed experience of the two with rugby. Her friends, Dube said, think it's odd that she's a part of a rugby team, mostly because their schools don't have it.

Nonetheless, Dube said she's grateful for the opportunity.

Amid trying to schedule games, balance a budget and still play the sport, Lewis said there's one main thing that he's trying to do with his remaining time at Northwest.

"We just wanna build something that'll last," Lewis said. "So, we just want to build something that alumni can come back and always remember."

MHS aims to overcome struggles in second half



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Between having their girls in hybrid classes, having abnormal practices and games being canceled right before first pitch, the Maryville softball team, which is sitting at 1-6, is struggling to lock in mentally.

Maryville coach Chandra DeMott is still proud of her girls for competing through the craziness of COVID-19, and she understands how tough it can be for them to find their rhythm.

"It's been a little bit of a tough season getting our mental game going with all the COVID stuff," De-Mott said. "As much as we all hate talking about it, it's very much a part of our lives and planning right now, so that constant up in the air feeling makes it hard for athletes to settle into a little bit."

With all the struggles the team has been facing with the looming fear of COVID-19, there have still been some bright spots within the pitching and defense.

Freshman pitcher Ella Schulte has been a solid starter for the Spoofhounds, and she has the complete trust of DeMott to be a solid piece on defense.

"She's been a great addition to our pitching rotation; she's a solid athlete," DeMott said. "She knows



ADDALYN BRADBURY I NW MISSOURIAN

ns catches behind home plate during

Maryville softball senior Briley Watkins catches behind home plate during the Spoofhounds' practice Sept. 21. Despite a 1-6 record, the 'Hounds are hoping to have a successful second half of the season.

the game, and she knows it well."

Schulte has been a decent option on the bump for the team with 28.2 innings pitched, along with an ERA of 3.42, allowing 14 earned runs on the season.

Despite Schulte having a record of 1-4, DeMott still believes she will become more successful once they catch a roll.

"What makes her a valuable asset on the mound is that she really keeps her emotions pretty composed," DeMott said. "She's very calm and collected on the mound, so it makes her a tough opponent."

The defense behind Schulte has an average fielding percentage at .869 and also has 126 putouts with 53 assists as a team.

DeMott has complete faith in her defense and believes it's one

UP NEXT

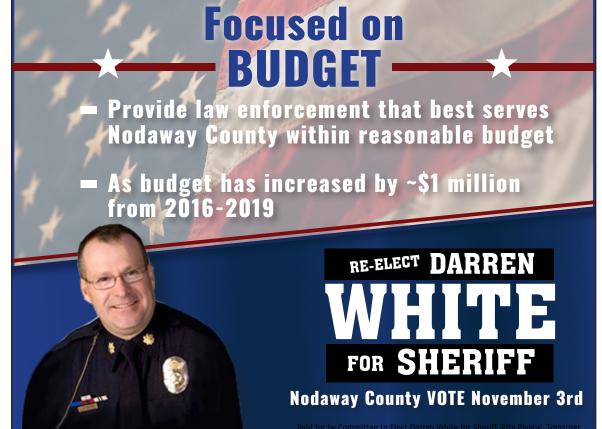
Maryville v St. Pius X 5 p.m. Sept. 24 Maryville, Missouri

of the team's strengths despite the struggles with errors, as they currently have 27 total.

"Defensively, I returned my entire infield, so my starting infield is very solid," DeMott said. "We have really worked out some of the kinks we had last year with my shortstop and second baseman both being freshmen last year, just having that experience this year has made all the difference."

FULL STORY ONLINE: NWMISSOURINEWS.COM





'Cats golfer caddies for pro tourney

DALTON TRUSSELL Missourian Reporter I @NWMSports

Over the summer, Northwest golf junior Spencer Roach had the chance of a lifetime to caddie for professional golfer Michael Arnaud on the Korn Ferry Tour Aug. 6.

The Korn Ferry Tour is a professional golf tour in which most PGA golfers compete before entering the PGA Tour. The best of the Korn Ferry Tour actually make it to the PGA Tour.

Roach came about the opportunity to caddie because her mom volunteers in player relations, and some of the golfers need caddies due to injuries or COVID-19. So, they asked local people to volunteer to caddie for the pro tour event.

"I just like being able to watch what the pros do," Roach said. "I learned how they count yardages. We can use rangefinders in college, but the pros can't while on tour."

While at Northwest, Roach has had the chance to participate in numerous events throughout the Midwest and the MIAA. She has excelled as a teammate in the program.

"She came in on a fairly small scholarship, but she has been a tremendous asset to our program," Northwest golf coach and Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said. "She has been a tremendous team player; she gives us some stability that every team needs."

Roach is always there to provide the support and leadership that her team needs. She is quick to cheer on her teammates even after a bad round.

"She is just a team player. Her golf comes and goes just like everybody. She may not have the best round, but she will make sure she is cheering the team on when she can," Peterson said. "She comes from a great background, great family, but her leadership is one of the ways she excels above and beyond."

Roach is a true competitor. She is not scared to show how passionate she is about the game of golf. She always takes it upon herself to do the best that she can in every aspect of her golf game.

"She is solid and very even keeled, but she is a perfectionist. She gets wrapped up in her score, but she is pretty steady," Peterson said, "You would know what kind of round she had, good or bad, if you went up to her. She scrambles very well. She may not be the best at the long game, but she works hard at it."

It means a lot to her. Caddying for Arnaud provided a unique experience for Roach and one she will never forget. She got to learn new things and see how the pros play. She witnessed firsthand what it takes to play golf at an elite level.

"My favorite thing about golf is it is an individual sport. It is a peaceful sport, where it is just you and the course," Roach said. "But my favorite thing about Bearcat golf is how we all like each other and how much we get along."

Bearcat golf, Roach said, is like a family to her. She loves being around the girls on the team.

Roach said she learned a lot from Arnaud and is hopeful she'll take what she learned from him and put it to use on the golf course.

UP NEXT

NW @ Newman 5:30 p.m. Jan. 30 Wichita, Kansas

Jays aim to avenge loss

lissourian Reporter I @NWMSports

The Rock Port Blue Jays finished their 2019 season with four wins, and they could equal that total by defeating the East Atchison Wolves

Sept. 25 in Tarkio, Missouri. Rock Port comes into the game with a 3-1 record following a 50-28 win against North-West Nodaway. Now, the Blue Jays enter the toughest part of their schedule, starting with an away game at rival East Atchison. Rock Port coach Dalton Jones and his team still remember a 54-8 loss from a year ago.

"A loss like that really hurts and it's an awful feeling," Jones said. "I feel like our guys know what it's like, and they want to make sure they don't get that feeling again."

The Blue Jays are led on offense by senior running back Joey Herron, who finished with 125 yards rushing and three total touchdowns against North-West Nodaway. He is now up to 578 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns on the season and has surpassed 3,000 career rushing yards.

Sophomore quarterback Aidan Burke stepped up in a big way, filling in for injured starting quarterback Micah Makings. Burke had 188 yards passing and four total scores, including a late pick six. Jones has confidence in his young quarterback after his performance.

"What's great is he's mature for his age, and he's truly a tough kid," Jones said. "We really trust him and

Micah both to play that spot." Sophomore running back Phil-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY I NW MISSOURIAN

Rock Port football sophomore quarterback Aidan Burke practices in preparation for the Blue Jays' matchup with rival East Atchsion Sept. 25 in Tarkio, Missouri. The Blue Jays hope to avenge a 54-8 loss to the Wolves from 2019.

lip Herron added 55 yards rushing and a score, while senior tight end Trey Peshek had 122 yards receiving. Having a balanced side on offense is a large part of Rock Port's success.

"We can mix up our play calls and keep guys fresh all game, which is huge for us at this stage of our development," Jones said. "I think as we keep moving forward, it will be big for us down the stretch."

On defense, junior linebacker Colten Stevens has been the cornerstone for the Jays, totalling 43 tackles. Peshek and Burke both have three interceptions each to lead the secondary.

UP NEXT

Rock Port @ East Atchison 7 p.m. Sept. 25 Tarkio, Missouri

FULL STORY ONLINE: NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

UP NEXT

Maryville v Savannah

7 p.m. Oct. 1

'Hound Pound

playing at our own pace when we

face teams, but I think we let up

because of the scores on the pre-

With a few mishaps from Platts-

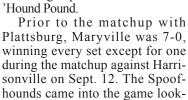
vious sets."

MHS continues dominant ways

TANNER SMITH

Sports Reporter I @t_smit02

Maryville volleyball continues its dominance at the net with a 3-0 sweep of Plattsburg Sept. 22 at the



ing to keep their perfect season in-

tact with a strong showing The 'Hounds were off to a strong start, commanding a 9-0 lead before surrendering a point to Plattsburg after libero Klarysa Stolte dove but could not recover the ball. The primary setter for the 'Hounds in the Sept. 22 was senior Macy Loe, who allowed her teammates to rack up kills at the net.

"Coach Mizera has guided us through this season," Loe said. "She has encouraged us to keep open minds, and it definitely helps to have so many talented players that we can play at multiple positions."

The 'Hounds were overpowering throughout the first set, with their largest lead stretching to 19. Senior outside hitter Serena Sundell spiked a kill to give the 'Hounds a 23-4 lead. The final for the first set

ended in a 25-6 score. 'Our main focus has been to have fun, and we are showing that throughout each set," Stolte said. "We never know if our season is going to stop, so we play to have fun



ADDALYNN BRADBURY I NW MISSOURIAN

"Our communication dropped

a little bit, but we were able to

bounce back from that pretty eas-

ily," Loe said. "We often work on

Maryville High School senior Morgan Stoecklein aims to set the ball at the varsity match against Plattsburg High School Sept. 22 in the 'Hound Pound.

no matter how the game is going."

To start the second set, Maryville jumped out to a 6-0 advantage behind strong efforts from Loe and Sundell. Plattsburg went on a run to bring the team within 5 points. but Maryville closed out the second set 25-15.

Heading into the third set, the 'Hounds got off to a 4-3 lead. Miscues on the court allowed for momentum to shift to Plattsburg. But once the Tigers felt they had momentum, Sundell came in with a kill from midcourt to push the momentum back on Marvville's side, leading to a 10-8 lead for the Spoofhounds.

burg, Maryville coasted to a comfortable lead of 22-9. Maryville end-

ed the sweep with a 25-10 win in the third set, pushing the Spoofhounds to an 8-0 record on the season. The rest of the 'Hounds games

this week have been canceled, so they'll look forward to their next matchup being against Savannah

With the cancellation of the games this week, next week will be the first time everyone is back on the team after losing multiple players due COVID-19 related situations.

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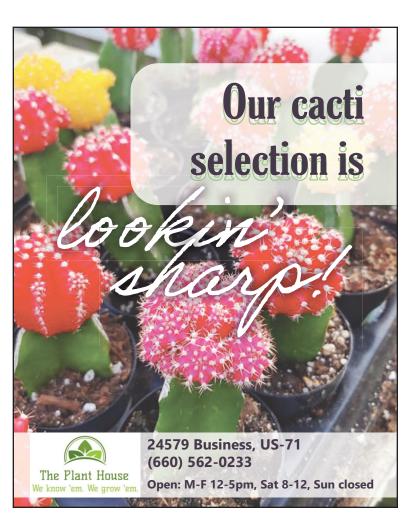
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GABI BROOKS I FILE

Sophomore defensive back Trey Washington (23) recorded two picks and scored a touchdown in Northwest football's 45-23 victory over Central Missouri Nov. 16.

Return of the 'Cats?

Northwest left with choice to make amid MIAA reversal

JON WALKER Sports Editor I @ByJonWalker

After the MIAA CEO Council announced the postponement of fall sports Aug. 14, Northwest Director of Athletics Andy Peterson said the process was something that kept him up at night.

A little more than a month later, a reversal of that decision has Peterson tossing and turning again.

On Sept. 19, developments came to light of a possible return of MIAA football this fall. After the athletic directors among the MIAA passed a vote 10-2, it was determined that the fate of fall sports would be left to the discretion of each member institution.

Another vote from the CEO Council cluded a 5-5 tie with two member schools abstaining, according to a report from the Topeka Capital-Journal. If the latter of the two Council votes passed, there would have been a conference slate of MIAA football games.

"The MIAA, we're not asking them to come up with a conference schedule," Peterson said. "It was more of just let each institution make their own call."

KNWT's Bearcat Update, Peterson said that the MIAA couldn't conduct fall sports because of the rather lofty testing requirements from the NCAA.

Peterson said Sept. 21 that the athletic directors passed the vote because of new availabilities in testing, as well as modifications to the NCAA's COVID-19 testing requirements. Some member schools, Peterson said, didn't have the funds to test. Other schools didn't have the nearby resources to conduct the tests with an adequate turnaround for results.

The NCAA did clarify that (polymerase chain reaction test) is the gold standard, but that doesn't have to be a nasal swab or brain swab, it can be spit tests," Peterson said. "I think some of our communities either through donors or location to some medical laboratories — a bunch of different stuff — they've just got to the point where they feel they can make it happen."

As for Northwest football, and the rest of the sports that were previously postponed, the option to play games this fall is now available.

"It's not just the football program, or the athletic department, or the campus, or During an interview Sept. 13 with the community," Peterson said. "It's all of

those things together at once. That makes it, you know, it's a wormhole that doesn't stop once you go down it. I've talked myself in circles 25 times trying to figure out what to do and how to do it best.

Hours after the initial developments, Pittsburg State became the first MIAA school to announce a scheduled competition. Pitt will travel to face FCS school Stephen F. Austin Nov. 14.

'We haven't specifically reached out to Northwest Missouri State, but certainly aren't opposed to playing them," Stephen F. Austin Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey said. "I have a previous connection to the AD at Pitt State, so it just happened

to work out." Missouri Western announced Sept. 21 hat the Griffons would hit the road to take

on Central Arkansas Oct. 31. "I've had a few phone calls that haven't been returned," Peterson said about the possibility of Northwest having games this fall. "You can go through all the work, we can test and make it work, but if there's nobody to play then there's nobody to play. ... We'll keep pecking on that box as we can."

To play or not to play has been a hotbutton debate topic during the months leading up to a possible season. Peterson said that along with trying to provide a memorable experience for the studentathletes, it has to be within the best interests of everyone.

Peterson noted that a decision to play would serve to provide a moment for the athletes that don't deem putting their futures on hold feasible, and giving them games this fall would hopefully provide closure to situations.

And amid an abundance of injuries throughout the first couple of weeks of the NFL season, it adds another area of concern and consideration for Peterson.

"I've got zero data to back this up, so this is my opinion, there have been a ton of injuries for Week 1 and 2 of the NFL," Peterson said. "I feel strongly that's because they didn't have their normal preseason. I'm not wishing ill upon anybody, obviously, but that's a serious consideration that we've gotta take into account. So, are we for the wrong reasons saying that we're going to play some football games this fall and rushing kids into playing when they're not physically ready yet?"

SEE **NORTHWEST | A7**

Spoofhounds search for first road win in Week 5



JON WALKER I NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville football senior running back Trey Houchin breaks a tackle on his way to the end zone in the Spoofhounds' 62-7 win against Chillicothe Sept. 11. The Spoofhounds are looking for their first road win of the season against Cameron Sept. 25 in Cameron, Missouri.

CALVIN SILVERS Sports Reporter I @CalvinSilvers

Another week brings another road game, and the Spoofhounds find

themselves winless when traveling. After being 0-2 away from the 'Hound Pound this season, the Spoofhounds will look to change that when they play Cameron Sept.

25 in Cameron, Missouri. A game in which Maryville (2-2) never led, the Spoofhounds found themselves within striking distance against St. Pius X Sept. 18. However, a game-winning drive with under four minutes in the game gave St. Pius all the wiggle room it needed, and the Warriors won 26-14. This week, the Spoofhounds hope to change their road woes against Camer-

on (3-1). We need to go down and be in an attacking mood," Maryville coach Matt Webb said about trying to secure the first road win. "I understand our two losses have come on the road, so we just need to find a way to load the bus and go down to beat a team on the road.'

In the two away games of the 2020 season, the 'Hounds have scored 22 points, compared to 104 points in their two home games. In the two losses, the Spoofhounds' offensive line has had trouble getting



Maryville @ Cameron 7 p.m. Sept. 25 Cameron, Missouri

a push, which hinders Maryville's run-based offense.

"Being able to set the run game early is critical because it can cause a lot of positive momentum on our side," Maryville senior running back Connor Weiss said. "We need to have the ability to keep improving each drive when we set the tone. Once we have momentum, we need to keep it through-

out the game.' Webb has been known to preach the concept of process football throughout his tenure at Maryville. It's easier to see this concept on the playing field, but Webb says it starts at practice and on Fridays when players are tuned into the game.

"It's not like it's a magic sauce. I don't get a magic drink to help go win on the road compared to home. There's nothing magical about it," Webb said. "You have to take care of the process throughout the week, then go down and do the same thing during the game."

SEE MARYVILLE | A7